

House primed for pipeline debate

By Joseph Morton

WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

House passes Terry pipeline bill

WASHINGTON — Debate over the controversial Keystone XL pipeline moves Tuesday to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The House plans to take up legislation authored by Rep. Lee Terry, R-Neb., that would require the U.S. State Department to rule by Nov. 1 on a permit for the pipeline.

Terry testified on behalf of the bill Monday before the House Rules Committee.

Rep. Alcee Hastings, D-Fla., brought up pipeline spills experienced by TransCanada, the company behind the Keystone XL.

"Can you help me understand that a company that doesn't have the world's best safety record is one that we are hurrying up to permit?" Hastings asked.

"First of all, I don't think we're hurrying up, frankly," Terry said. "The issue here is that they have all of the data."

Hastings asked whether Terry would accept an amendment aimed at increasing TransCanada's liability in case of a spill, but Terry said his understanding is that current law already covers that.

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